

Pennsylvania Forests

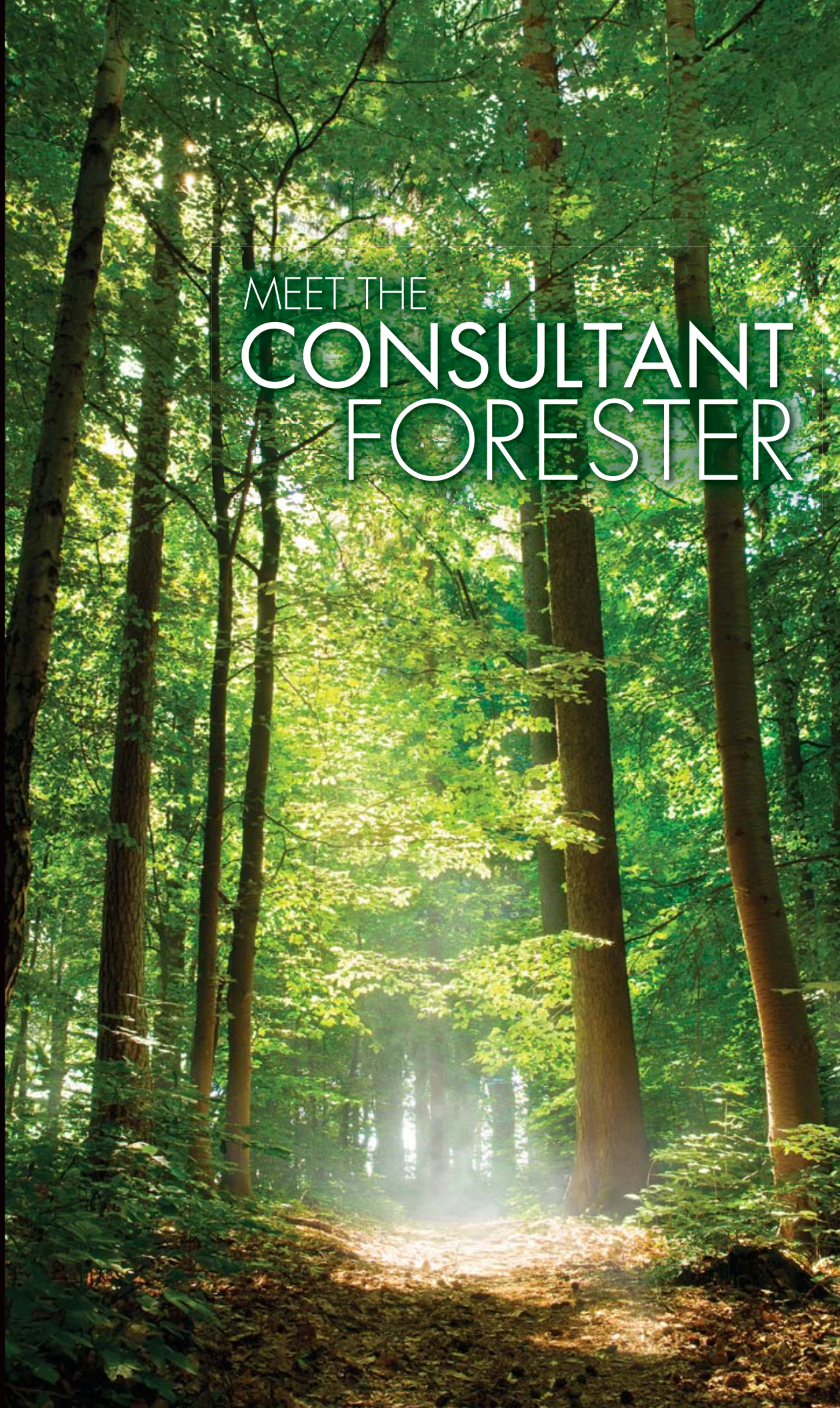
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION



Volume 103 Number 4

Winter 2012

MEET THE
**CONSULTANT
FORESTER**



FOREST LANDOWNER ASSOCIATIONS

Joining a local association dedicated to forest stewardship is an excellent way to become involved in sustaining Pennsylvania's forest resources. Currently, nearly 1,000 people are members of the 27 local associations involved in forest stewardship in Pennsylvania. While a majority of members own forestland, most groups do not require land ownership.

The objective of most Forest Landowner Associations (FLAs) is to provide educational opportunities for members. Although each group is independent, and missions and membership policies differ, most use meetings, field demonstrations, tours, seminars and newsletters to provide information about forests and sound forest management to their members and people in the local communities.

If learning more about the stewardship of Pennsylvania's forest resources interests you, consider joining one of the local organizations listed here. If there is no group in your area, consider starting one.

For more information, contact the Penn State Forest Resources Extension office at 1.800.235.WISE (toll free) or visit the FLA site at <http://paforeststewards.cas.psu.edu/Associations.html>.

Allegheny Mountain Woodlands Association

PO Box 42
Ebensburg, PA 15931
Email: info@amwatreesofpa.com
<http://theamwa.wordpress.com/>
(Cambria County)

Blair Woodland Association

3227 Pinewood Road
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
Email: mail@blairwoodlandassoc.org
<http://www.blairwoodlandassoc.org>

Bradford-Sullivan Forest Landowners' Association

PO Box 473
Wysox, PA 18854
Email: thebsfla@yahoo.com

Central Susquehanna Woodland Owners Association

c/o Williams
348 Sereno Hollow Road
Millville, PA 17846
Email: CSWOA1@gmail.com
(Columbia, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, & Union Counties)

Clearfield - Jefferson Counties Forest Stewardship Committee

c/o Gary Gilmore
1514 Rt. 28
Brookville, PA 15825
Email: ggilmore@state.pa.us

Cumberland Woodland Owners Association

c/o Fred Peabody
187 Hoot Owl Road
Newville, PA 17241

Dauphin County Woodland Owners Association

1451 Peters Mountain Road
Dauphin, PA 17081
Email: DCWOA@live.com

Laurel Highlands Forest Landowners Association

c/o Robert Bastian
347 Blackburn Road
Friedens, PA 15541
Email: bbastian@shol.com
(Fayette & Somerset Counties)

Lycoming Woodland Owners' Association

7582 Beaver Lake Road
Muncy Valley, PA 17758

Mercer County Woodland Owners Association

PO Box 530
Mercer, PA 16137
Email: mcwoa@yahoo.com
<http://www.mcwoa.org>

Mifflin County Forest Landowners Association

c/o John Portzline
18865 Old Turnpike Road
Millmont, PA 17845

North Central Forest Landowners' Association

PO Box 141
Port Allegheny, PA 16743
<http://www.orgsites.com/pa/ncfla>
(Cameron, Elk, McKean, & Potter Counties)

Northwest Pennsylvania Woodland Association

c/o Pete Kost
1122 Park Avenue
Meadville, PA 16335
<http://nwpwa.allegheny.edu/>
(Crawford, Erie, & Warren Counties)

Perry-Juniata Woodland Owners Association

4455 Big Spring Road
Blain, PA 17006

Pike-Monroe Woodland Owners Association

c/o Mike Roche
HC1 Box 95A
Swiftwater, PA 18370
Email: mroche@state.pa.us

Southeast Forest Resources Association

c/o George Kaufman
1825 Upper Ridge Road
Green Lane, PA 18054
(Bucks & Montgomery Counties)

Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners' Association

2506 Hollywood Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
<http://www.cs.pitt.edu/~daley/swpwo/>
(Greene & Washington Counties)

Susquehanna County Forest Landowners' Association

RR 1, Box 1133
Friendsville, PA 18818

Tioga County Woodland Owners Association

c/o Tom Socha
517 Linder Road
Osceola, PA 16942

Tri-County Woodland Owners' Association

(Lancaster, Berks and Chester Counties)
c/o Rick Hartlieb
845 Park Road
Elverson, PA 19520
Email: rhartlieb@state.pa.us

Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners' Association

45 Springhouse Lane
Equinunk, PA 18417
Email: info@wlfla.org
<http://www.wlfla.org>

Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association

218 Donohoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601
<http://www.wcdpa.com>

Women and Their Woods

c/o Delaware Highlands Conservancy
P.O. Box 218
Hawley, PA 18428
Email: conserve@delawarehighlands.org

Woodland Owners of Centre County

PO Box 1156
State College, PA 16804
<http://woodlandownerscc.info>

Woodland Owners of Clarion-Allegheny Valley

PO Box 194
Corsica, PA 15829
Email: thewocav@yahoo.com
<http://www.thewocav.org>
(Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest, & Venango Counties)

Clarion County Forest Stewardship Council

8 Grant Street
Clarion, PA 16214
<http://clarion.extension.psu.edu/Agriculture/Forestry.html>

Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies

PO Box 29
Bedford, PA 15522
Email: thewosa@yahoo.com
<http://www.orgsites.com/pa/wosa/>
(Bedford & Fulton Counties)

Wyoming Forest Stewards

c/o Wyoming County
Cooperative Extension
71 Hollowcrest Road, Suite 2
Tunkhannock, PA 18657

York-Adams Woodland Owners Association

c/o Matt Kern
2600 Smith Station Road
Hanover, PA 17331
Email: mkern@state.pa.us

PENNSYLVANIA FORESTS

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 103

NUMBER 4

WINTER 2012



(ISSN 0031-4501)

Official publication of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association. Formerly known as *Forest Leaves*; first published in 1886. Dedicated to environmental protection and wise natural resource use.

* * *

PFA Communications Committee

Nancy Baker, Lloyd Casey, Ed Dix, Linda Finley, John D. Laskowski, Marc Lewis, Rex Lord, Ken Manno, Sanford Smith and Jim Stiehler, Chairman

* * *

PENNSYLVANIA FORESTS is published quarterly—Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter. Subscription rate: magazine included in annual membership dues.

The editor regrets any inadvertent omission or acknowledgement of any copyrighted material and requests such omissions be called to her attention for correction in future issues.

Periodical postage paid at the post office in Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Postmaster: Send address changes to PFA, P.O. Box 1278, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

* * *

Printed by:

Art Communication Systems, Inc.
1340 North 17th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103
717.232.0144

Pennsylvania Forests is the Award-Winning publication of The Pennsylvania Forestry Association

P.O. Box 1278
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717.766.5371
e-mail: thepfa@verizon.net
<http://www.paforestry.org>

PFA is a state affiliate of the National Woodland Owners Association
374 Maple Ave., E., Suite 310
Vienna, VA 22180

Address all editorial inquiries to:
Elizabeth Cook, Editor
1340 N. 17th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103
717. 232.0144 • FAX 717.232.8823
emc@artcomsys.com



MISSION STATEMENT

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association is a broad-based citizen's organization that provides leadership and education in sound, science-based forest management and promotes stewardship to ensure the sustainability of all forest resources, resulting in benefits for all, today and into the future.

COVER

Meet the Consultant Forester

BACK COVER

Private Landowners Conference 2013

WINTER ARTICLES

Fond Memories of Earl Higgins	6
PA Forests Magazine Archives	7-8
Efforts Underway to Measure Impacts of Forest Products Industry	27
Sponsors Wanted for Charity Shoot	27
The Winter Garden	28-29
Bat Decline May Impact Forest Owners and Industry	31
Tour de Wood	32-35
Insert – Conservation Dinner Information	

SPECIAL FEATURES

A Consultant Forester's Unique Role	14-16
Consultant Foresters Find Markets for High Quality Logs	17-19
Credentialing Consultant Foresters	20-21
A Forester is a Critter's Best Friend	22-23
Consultant Foresters Assist in Estate Planning	24-25

REGULAR FEATURES

President's Message	4
PFA 2012 Board of Directors	5
New Members	5
Timber Market Report	7-8
PFA Rambles for 2012	10
Emerald Jewels of Pennsylvania	11-12
The Knots of Timber Tax	13
PA Partners for Sustainable Forests	30

TABLE OF CONTENTS



The 126th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association was held on September 29, 2012 near Grove City, PA. Although there is a short business meeting and an awards banquet at the end of the day, most of the day is dedicated to a theme program that highlights areas of interest about forestry. The theme of this year's program was "The Importance of Young (Early Successional Forests) in PA." After seeing two wonderful presentations by Emily Bellush, representing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Dr. Linda D. Ordiway, representing the Ruffed Grouse Society, we headed to the field to visit three sites where the landowners / land managers were actively managing parts of their land to promote young forests. It was one of the best programs I've ever attended. My thanks to Cecile Stelter and the large group of folks that contributed to making this meeting such a success.

On March 2, 2013 PFA will be hosting its annual Conservation Dinner in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The Conservation Dinner is always a very enjoyable event filled with opportunities to bid on outstanding items in both the live and the silent auctions, and the excitement of the draw-down raffle, with a **grand prize of \$10,000!** Tickets for the drawing are \$100, which includes dinner. There are only 350 tickets printed, and demand has been high. Last year was the first in recent memory when we sold out of tickets for the drawing. If you have never attended this event, put it on your calendar and order your tickets soon. And don't wait to make lodging reservations – hotel rooms in Williamsport go very quickly. To order tickets for the Conservation Dinner contact the PFA office at (717) 766-5371 or (800)-835-8065.

ON MARCH 2, 2013 PFA WILL BE HOSTING ITS ANNUAL CONSERVATION DINNER IN WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA. THE CONSERVATION DINNER IS ALWAYS A VERY ENJOYABLE EVENT FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO BID ON OUTSTANDING GOODS IN BOTH THE LIVE AND THE SILENT AUCTIONS, AND THE EXCITEMENT OF THE DRAW-DOWN RAFFLE, WITH A GRAND PRIZE OF \$10,000!

PFA will have a display at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, January 5 - 12, 2013, and the Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show, February 2 - 10, 2013. Both shows are at the Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg. In the years that I have been involved with PFA always would have liked to have a few more volunteers to staff the booth at the Farm Show or Sports Show. If you would like to help, your assistance will be very much appreciated. *For more information on volunteering, please contact the PFA office at (717) 766-5371 or (800)-835-8065, or via e-mail at info@paforestry.org.* In any event, please stop by our display and say hello if you attend.

Finally, I am sad to announce the passing of Earl Higgins. Earl was a good friend of mine, and I great friend of PFA. Earl had served as President and Treasurer of PFA and was one of its most ardent supporters. He will truly be missed.

David J. Alerich

David J. Alerich, President
Pennsylvania Forestry Association

PENNSYLVANIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

2013 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Alerich, President

Robb Piper, Vice President

Norman Lacasse, Secretary

Greg Schrum, Treasurer

DIRECTORS, TERMS EXPIRE 2013

Martin Melville, Jennifer Stingelin Keefer, Craig Houghton, Jim Walizer, Mark Ott, Jeff Gossert, Julianne Schieffer

DIRECTORS, TERMS EXPIRE 2014

Eugene Clair, Larry Schultz, Terry Hoffman, John D. Laskowski, Bob Long, Benjamin Jones, Gene Odato

DIRECTORS, TERMS EXPIRE 2015

David Twining, Darrel Reibson, Richard Lewis, Lloyd Casey, Cecile Stelter, Andrew Duncan, Matt Sampson

PA FOREST LANDOWNER ASSOCIATION'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD, TERM EXPIRES 2012

Nancy Baker

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Marc Lewis

OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER, 2011

John W. Hoover

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

James Altemus



NEW MEMBERSHIP LIST

W.W. Baber, Stahlstown, PA
Robert Kovacic, East Lyme, CT
Tina Love, Duncansville, PA

Linda Jo Robbins, Drums, PA
David L. Ward, New Castle, PA

ENDOWMENT FUND

David J. Babyak
Frank A. Gansz

JOSEPH IBBERSON FUND

Tom & Kim Metzgar

Fond Memories of Earl Higgins

**"MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU."
- Earl Higgins**

Earl Higgins died on October 16th, 2012. He was 68. Earl served as past president and treasurer of Pennsylvania Forestry Association from 2005/2006. Earl was a great friend to PFA and a fine supporter. Earl spent his entire career with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. Earl's first assignment was service forester in Huntingdon and Centre Counties where he met his wife Joan, who preceded him in death. Earl was devoted to his family.

When he retired, Earl was District Forester of the William Penn State Forest. Earl was a member of the Society of American Foresters and a Life Member of Pennsylvania Forestry Association. At Earl's request, memorial contributions may be made to the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.



PENNSYLVANIA FORESTS 2013 ADVERTISING RATES

<u>SIZE</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>NON-MEMBER</u>
Full Page - 7.5 x 10	\$200	\$240
½ Page - 7.5 x 5	\$100	\$120
¼ Page - 3.75 x 5	\$ 50	\$ 60
Card - 3.5 x 2	\$ 34	\$ 40
Inside Cover - Full Page	\$300	\$360
Inside Cover - ½ Page	\$150	\$180
Back Cover - Full Page, B/W	\$400	\$480
Back Cover - ½ Page, B/W	\$200	\$240
Back Cover - Full Page, Full Color	\$450	\$540
Insert - 4 Pages	\$400	\$500

Advertisers are billed upon publication. Tear sheets are provided. A 5% discount is provided if four advertisements are ordered and paid in advance. Copy that is not camera-ready will be typeset at a minimum rate of \$50/hour. All accounts not paid within 30 days are subject to a 1.5% per month late charge. The publisher reserves the right to reject any objectionable advertisement. In the event of an error for which the publisher is responsible, the publisher will re-run the advertisement without charge or refund the appropriate amount.

Materials may be sent to Elizabeth Cook, Editor, PA Forests Magazine, 1340 North 17th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103.



Pennsylvania Woodlands TIMBER MARKET

REPORT

Third Quarter 2012 July-September

Chart Legend



Pulpwood Stumpage...

Private and Other Public Pulpwood Stumpage

Region	Hardwood Pulp (\$/ton)				Softwood Pulp (\$/ton)			
	Low	Avg	(n)#	High	Low	Avg	(n)#	High
Northeast	1.00	2.44	9	7.93	^	^	1	^
Southeast	1.17	2.42	3	4.25	^	^	1	^
Northwest	0.57	2.27	15	6.00	0.83	0.83	4	0.83
Southwest	0.88	1.44	4	2.00			0	

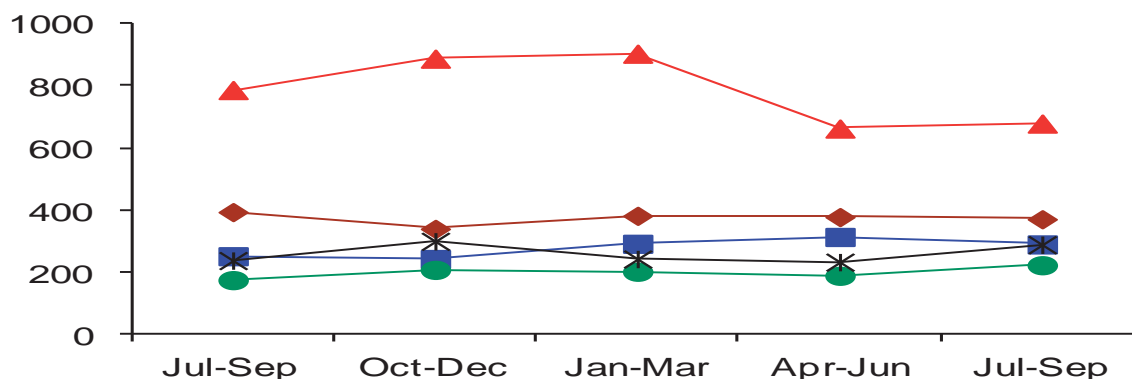
Bureau of Forestry Pulpwood Stumpage

Region	Hardwood Pulp (\$/ton)				Softwood Pulp (\$/ton)			
	Low	Avg	(n)#	High	Low	Avg	(n)#	High
Northeast	0.54	0.97	14	2.14	0.39	0.77	9	1.58
Southeast	1.21	1.57	3	2.26	*	1.99	2	*
Northwest	1.08	2.06	17	3.96	0.00	1.30	6	1.96
Southwest	1.25	1.69	5	2.25	1.25	1.23	8	1.84

^ No prices are reported for samples with only a single respondent.

* Ranges are not reported for samples with fewer than three respondents.

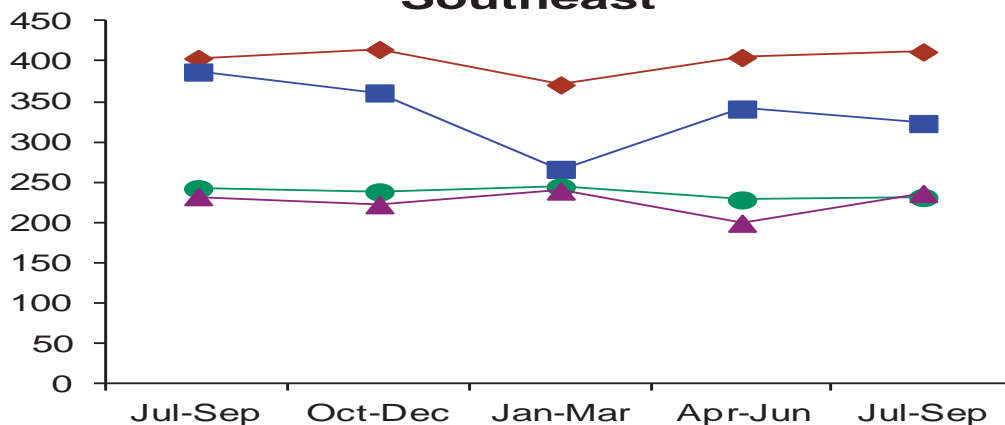
Northeast



Northeast	N. Red Oak	White Oak	Black Cherry	White Ash	Hard Maple
Last Year	394	252	787	175	238
Change	↓ -6%	↑ 15%	↓ -14%	↑ 27%	↑ 21%
Current	371	290	679	223	289

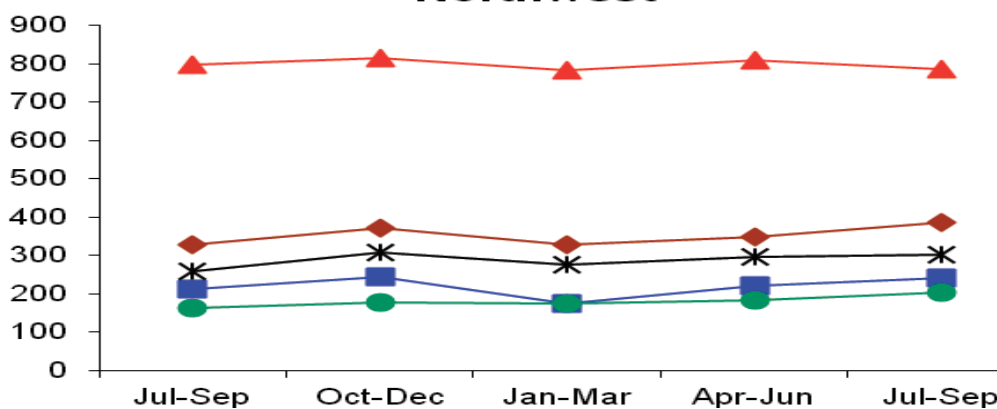
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Southeast



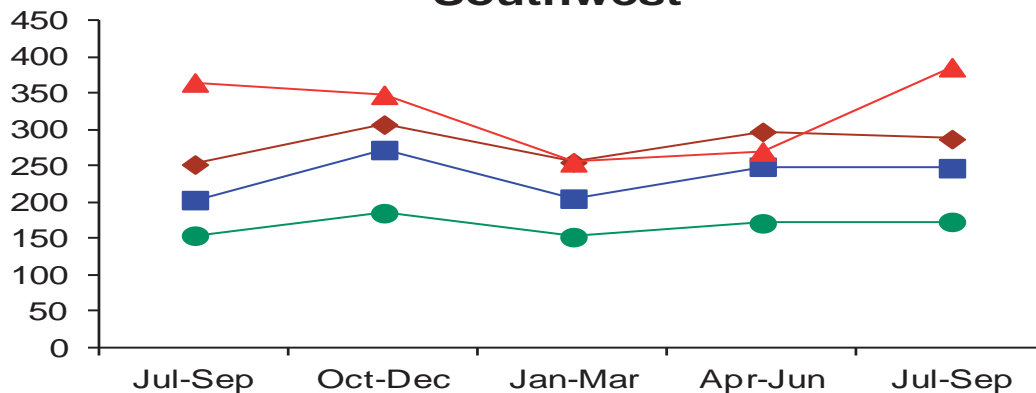
Southeast	N. Red Oak	White Oak	Black Cherry	White Ash
Last Year	404	387	242	232
Change	↗ 2%	↘ -17%	↘ -5%	↗ 2%
Current	412	323	231	236

Northwest



Northwest	N. Red Oak	White Oak	Black Cherry	White Ash	Hard Maple
Last Year	328	213	796	163	258
Change	↗ 18%	↗ 14%	↘ -1%	↗ 25%	↗ 17%
Current	387	242	787	203	303

Southwest



Southeast	N. Red Oak	White Oak	Black Cherry	White Ash
Last Year	252	203	365	154
Change	↗ 14%	↗ 22%	↗ 6%	↗ 12%
Current	287	247	386	173

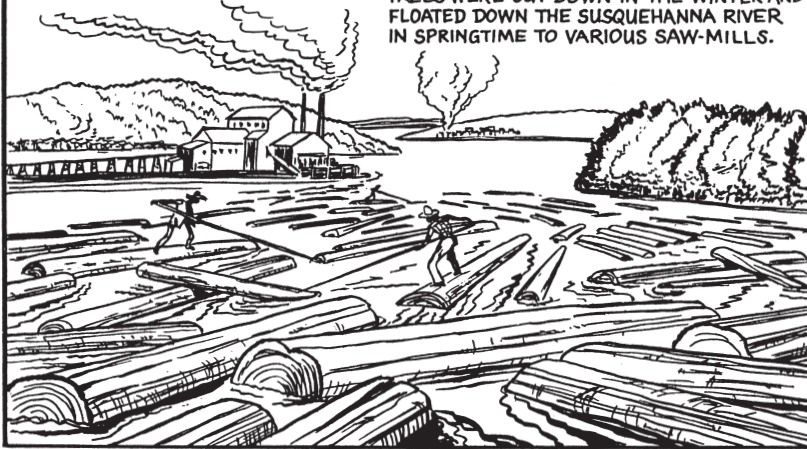
Pennsylvania Profiles

by Patrick M. Reynolds

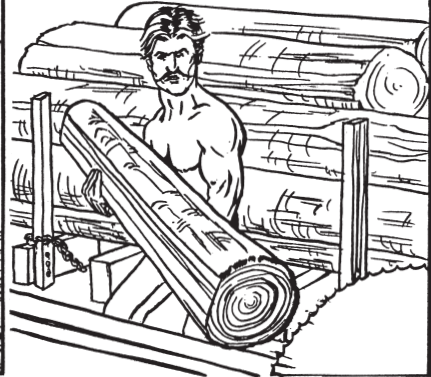
A great gift is an seven volume set of **Pennsylvania Profiles** books available for \$57.95 total from the Red Rose Studio, 35 Flintlock Dr., Willow Street, PA 17584. Call (717) 464-3873. Website: www.redrosetudio.com

The Sawdust War

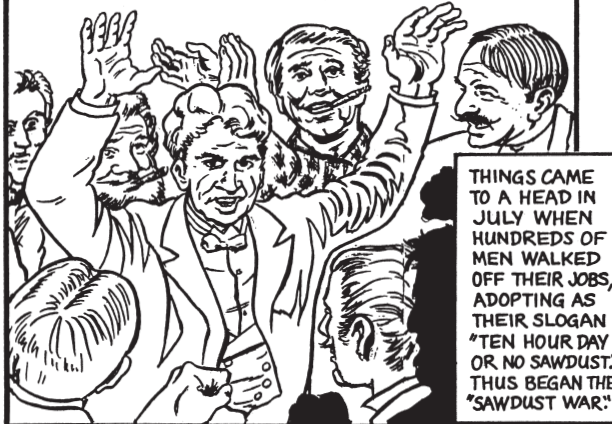
FROM 1870 TO 1880 **WILLIAMSPORT** WAS THE WORLD'S LARGEST LUMBERING CENTER. TREES WERE CUT DOWN IN THE WINTER AND FLOATED DOWN THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IN SPRINGTIME TO VARIOUS SAW-MILLS.



THE SAME MEN WHO CUT DOWN THE TREES & FLOATED THEM DOWNRIVER WERE PUT IN THE MILLS TO HELP SAW THE LOGS. SINCE THE LOGGERS HAD TO RETURN TO THE WOODS IN THE FALL THE MILL OWNERS HAD THEM WORKING **12 HOURS A DAY**.



A GROUP OF LABOR ORGANIZERS CAME TO WILLIAMSPORT IN JUNE 1872 AND HELD RALLIES TO URGE THE SAW-MILL WORKERS TO GO ON STRIKE FOR A **TEN HOUR DAY** INSTEAD OF TWELVE.



THINGS CAME TO A HEAD IN JULY WHEN HUNDREDS OF MEN WALKED OFF THEIR JOBS, ADOPTING AS THEIR SLOGAN "TEN HOUR DAY OR NO SAWDUST." THUS BEGAN THE "SAWDUST WAR."

PARADES AND MARCHES WERE HELD EVERY DAY. AFTER A FEW WEEKS SOME OF THE LOGGERS WERE INDUCED TO GO BACK TO WORK. THIS PROMPTED THE STRIKERS TO USE MORE DRAMATIC TACTICS TO POUND THEIR MESSAGE INTO THE MILL OWNERS AND NON-STRIKERS.



THE VIOLENCE GOT SO BAD THAT MAYOR STARKWEATHER ASKED GOVERNOR GEARY TO SEND STATE MILITIA TO WILLIAMSPORT. ON JULY 23rd TROOPS BEGAN ARRIVING FROM HARRISBURG, LEBANON, MIDDLETOWN & SUNBURY. THE CITY WAS PLACED UNDER MARTIAL LAW.



ON THE SAME DAY THE LABOR "RINGLEADERS"—A TOTAL OF 29 PEOPLE—WERE ARRESTED & LATER PLACED ON TRIAL. THE LOGGERS RETURNED TO THE SAW-MILLS WORKING TWELVE HOURS A DAY.



POST SCRIPT: TWENTY-TWO WERE FOUND GUILTY. AS A WAY OF RECOGNIZING LABOR UNIONS GOV. GEARY PARDONED ALL THE GUILTY PARTIES AND THEIR RECORDS WERE LOST. MOST OF THESE MEN WENT ON TO BECOME BIG LABOR & POLITICAL POWERS HERE-& IN OTHER STATES.

THE PENNSYLVANIA PROFILES ARE VERY INTERESTING. EACH PENNSYLVANIA PROFILE COSTS PFA \$30 TO USE IN PENNSYLVANIA FORESTS. USUALLY, PFA DOES NOT (AND CAN NOT) PAY WRITERS FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES. FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, PFA HAS RELIED ON THE GENEROSITY OF MEMBERS TO PAY FOR PA PROFILES. THE NEXT FOUR ISSUES OF PENNSYLVANIA FORESTS WILL INCLUDE PA PROFILES PAID FOR BY PFA'S VICE PRESIDENT, KEN MANNO. THANK YOU VERY MUCH KEN.

2013

Rambles



**TREE PLANTING RAMBLE ON
THE SPROUL STATE FOREST**
April 27, 2013



**CANOE RAMBLE ON THE
LOYALSOCK AT HILLS GROVE**
May 18, 2013



**ELK WATCH RAMBLE ON
THE ELK STATE FOREST**
September 21, 2013

Write to the PFA office at PO Box 1278, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
for more information or call 717-766-5371

Casey's Forestry Concepts

A new type of Consulting Forestry



Lloyd R. Casey
1263 Palomino Drive
West Chester, PA 19380

610 - 436 - 9424
email: lcasey@comcast.net





EMERALD JEWELS: **WARRIOR'S PATH STATE PARK**

by Heidi Mullendore, EES, Canoe Creek State Park Complex

Tucked away in the Ridge and Valley province of PA, in an area known as the Broad Top, the beautiful 333-acre Warrior's Path State Park lies on a finger of land bounded on three sides by the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River. The winding river empties into Raystown Lake approximately one mile downstream. The unique shape of the park was formed as a result of river meandering, creating the amazing scenery enjoyed by park visitors today.

Warrior's Path was named for the famous trail which linked Native Americans in the Great Lakes area with those in the Carolinas and south. The Path was used in raids and wars, and later became useful in trading routes and as a conduit for settlers seeking new lands.

The earliest homestead on what is now park land was built at the time of the American Revolution. The 1800's saw the influx of settlers into an area rich in natural resources. The development of the railroad opened the area to permanent settlement and effectively closed the chapter on the great Warrior's Path as a by-way for Native Americans.

For the next hundred years, the area experienced 'boom times,' as the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad provided access to area's coal resources, ironically running along much of the former Warrior's Path itself. The railroad even provided coal to a local pump station for one of the first petroleum pipelines in the world, built by Andrew Mellon, the Pittsburgh business tycoon.

But as always, times change. The oil company left the area and the railroad closed after World War II. Another chapter closed on the development of the area, and a new chapter opened when Warrior's Path State Park was dedicated in 1965.

Today, park visitors are greeted with spectacular scenery as they traverse the winding road, once the great Warrior's Path and later the important railroad right-of-way. Guests enjoy picnic areas and pavilions throughout the park. Hikers come to explore six miles of scenic trails around the peninsula. A car-top boat launch and River Trail provide access for anglers and boaters to the river.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12




Warrior's Path State Park is a day use park. From mid-April through the end of October, the park is open to visitors, and during the off season, visitors park by the main gate and walk the scenic roadway to access the peninsula.

Several unique habitats exist as a result of the river carving its way through the land. A freshwater swamp follows the long axis of the park adjacent to the river bottomland. Also, across the river from the swamp is an excellent example of weathered shale cliffs with unique trees, plants and animals. River otter have been released at various sites along the river near the park. Ruffed grouse nest in brushy areas and turkey frequent the old fields.

The park itself is at river mile 42 and is designated as a stop along the Juniata River Water Trail, Raystown Branch.

Over time, the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River has carved a rich history connecting Native Americans, early settlers and railroad. The emerald jewel that is Warrior's Path State Park now seeks to conserve this area and its amazing heritage.

For more information on Warrior's Path State Park, go to www.visitPAparks.com. For more information about the Juniata River Water Trail, Raystown Branch, go to www.fish.state.pa.us/watertrails. 

THE KNOTS OF TIMBER TAX: A CONSULTANT FORESTER'S UNIQUE ROLE

CONSULTANT FORESTERS ASSIST IN INCOME TAX PREPARATION:

This issue of the magazine is devoted to the consultant foresters of Pennsylvania who provide services to private woodland owners of the Commonwealth. In particular, consultant foresters have unique skills and knowledge that assist forest owners in reducing their Federal Income Tax liability.

It is important that owners work with a professional tax preparer, but the CPA, lawyer or enrolled agent cannot measure the volume of timber, the percent of growth and appraise the value of such assets. These are all items needed to establish the "basis" in your timber that is used to reduce the adjusted gross income from time sales and to calculate "casualty loss" from fire, storms or floods.

The accountant cannot or should not write a forest management plan (business plan) needed in case of an audit for those in the "timber growing business." Accountants, for the most part, cannot fill out form "T" that explains the profit or loss from a forestry operation.

Consultants provide advice as to what management activities are deductible from income and what activities are considered recreational rather than business expenses.

Public foresters are prohibited from discussing "money matters" with owners and industrial foresters tend to stay away from giving financial advice to sellers of timber. Remember the consultant forester works for you, the forest landowner, to assist in the proper management of your woodland assets in a financial and sustainable way.

Note: There will be changes in the Federal Income Tax Code next year and at this point those changes are unknown. It behooves all of us to be vigilant on this issue and keep our congressional members apprised as to what is important to you as a private woodland owner.



A CONSULTANT FORESTER'S UNIQUE ROLE

A FORESTER'S GRAND VIEW OF FORESTRY

by Mike Wolf, appalachianforestconsultants.com

A forester recently told me that he went to forestry school so he could work in the woods and avoid people. His 34 year career ended up proving to be just the opposite. He quickly rose in rank and spent more time behind a desk as a manager of forestry personnel and responsible for the bulk of his office's public interactions. This is a common story. Forestry schools across the nation tend to draw outdoorsy young men and women who would prefer to spend the day hiking, hunting, fishing, or biking a woods road. They are often seen with binoculars, game spotting lights, pocket knives, and 4 wheel drive vehicles. They are the ones staring out the windows, towards the neighboring mountains, during a high school class. Working outside is a primary drive for the forestry student. Working in an office or behind a desk is unimaginable.

This article is designed to accomplish two goals. First, it should be sent to any student who is considering a career in forestry – forestry students should know exactly what they are getting into. Second, when you are done reading, it is my hope that you discover a plethora of opportunities in today's world for foresters – beyond the traditional career paths that you may have heard about from a high school guidance counselor.

Let's start with the obvious – the traditional. Of course we all know about some of the more traditional professions of a forester. However,

within the following traditional roles I want to present both common and some unique and less-known aspects of the job.

EXTENSION FORESTER:

The Extension Forester essentially works for a university and bridges the gap between the academic world of research and the real world of landowners, loggers and foresters. The Extension Forester has one foot in academia and is working with university professors to understand the science of forestry, while at the same time keeping the other foot planted firmly in the real world of forestry practice and implementation. The Extension Forestry position is quite diverse and requires a great degree of flexibility and skill in dealing with a wide variety of audiences in any given day. An Extension Forester interacts with individual landowners, loggers, foresters, professors, large audiences and local media on a regular basis. Much of the Extension Forester's time is spent on preparing educational presentations and writing outreach articles. Good communication skills are an absolute necessity.

INDUSTRIAL FORESTER:

The Industrial Forester typically works for a sawmill where lumber is the primary end-product or a pulp mill where paper products are produced. In either case, the Industrial Forester will find him or herself somewhere along the production process line. In other words, the Industrial Forester may be approaching landowners with

the hope of purchasing timber for the mill. This front-line position is filled with long days afield, the excitement of business negotiations and the opportunity to meet a lot of great folks. The Industrial Forester may be supervising logging operations for the mill. This particular task also entails long field days and is one of the most challenging growth opportunities for foresters. Dry weather logging in nice timber is fun. However, add weather and disgruntled loggers or landowners to the equation and the fun fades. The hurdles come high and often when you're responsible for logging operations – you have to love a challenge. The Industrial Forester may be responsible for silviculture on company-owned properties. This role will involve cruising, plan-writing and mapping as much as it will timber marking. Some Industrial Foresters become managers of field foresters and oversee multiple aspects of the process. This role typically comes with a custom-fit desk chair and a bigger waistline (not much field work anymore) but the challenges are increased and exposure to higher levels of business is also a plus. For all of these roles, good communication skills are an absolute necessity.

CONSULTING FORESTER:

A typical Consulting Forester is known by many titles to include secretary, driver, timber marker, appraiser, plan writer, map maker, logging supervisor, equipment maintenance specialist and others. A Consulting Forester typically runs a small business and

A CONSULTANT FORESTER'S UNIQUE ROLE



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE WOLF

tends to keep things simple by filling all managerial and staff positions simultaneously and singularly by the same person – the business owner. The Consulting Forester needs to find, do, and supervise work continuously. The Consulting Forester works for people who own forestland. The Consulting Forester provides professional forestry service to the landowner in the form of appraisals, written forest management plans, advice, implementing and carrying out a logging process, and a slew of other tasks that fit the varied needs of today's forest landowner. Consulting Forestry work can be very challenging and is typically filled with a great diversity of tasks. Written and verbal communication skills are an everyday need for the Consultant Forester.

SERVICE FORESTER:

A Service Forester works for the State Forestry Department. In Pennsylvania, a Service Forester works for DCNR's Bureau of Forestry. The Service Forester's job is to provide advice and educational materials to forest landowners who request help. Additionally, the Service Forester is usually highly involved in local forest landowner associations and other local organizations that have an interest in forest management. Service Foresters help forest landowners understand the complexity of sustainable forest management and provide advice to help steer landowners in the right direction. Also, some Service Foresters can assist in forest management on a state-owned forest. Most Service Foresters also assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in their home county with

the management of federal cost-share programs for qualified private forest owners. The Service Forester position is ripe with opportunities to communicate good forestry practices on many levels. The Service Forester position is typically filled by a skilled communicator.

Now, let's briefly look at some foresters in the work place whose positions may surprise you. I'm sure you've heard of some of these positions, but probably not all. In each of the brief descriptions to follow, I chose to bring to light some really cool forestry jobs I've heard about over the years. The following are not full descriptions, just meant to wet your whistle for further exploration:

Log Buyer: A Forester can work for a niche forest products company like

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

A CONSULTANT FORESTER'S UNIQUE ROLE

Longaberger Baskets or Louisville Slugger and be responsible to purchase specialized logs for baskets or baseball bats.

PA Game Commission Forester: A Forester can work for a state game agency and be responsible for forest management activities like controlled burning and habitat creation.

Conservation District: A Forester can work for a County Conservation District and be responsible for the wide array of forest management decisions that go along with protecting local streams and rivers from erosion and sedimentation.

Urban Forester: A Forester can live in and work in a big city and be responsible for the care and maintenance of the city's green-scape and street trees.

Utility Forester: The majority of large power supply lines are bordered by trees and forests. A Forester can be responsible for creating and implementing a vegetation management plan that ensures a continuous cross-country power supply.

Forest Products: Some Foresters will find themselves in a laboratory setting running tests on wood characteristics and providing important information to engineers and builders.

Conservation Organization

Forester: A Forester can work for a large non-profit conservation organization and be responsible for securing conservation easements, protecting unique sites and interfacing with the public sector on forestry related issues.

Real Estate Forester: A Forester can own large parcels of land and manage the timber for long-term financial gain. The same Forester can buy and sell forest and farm land and even become a real estate broker.

Herbicide Applicator: A Forester can become a vegetation management specialist and secure contracts from the Bureau of Forestry or the PA Game Commission. This forester becomes responsible for herbicide applications on unwanted plants.

Army Forester: Our armed forces own and manage large properties. A Forester can become an integral part of the land and forest management on government owned tracts.


Arborist: A Forester can broaden his or her horizons by becoming a tree specialist. In today's world of widespread insect and fungus attacks, a busy Arborist can recommend and even treat the problem so that our trees can remain healthy.

Professor: A Forester with an academic flair can choose to stay in school longer and become a professor or an instructor at the college level. Besides teaching, research plays a major role in the life of a professor.

Writer: Foresters often seem the type to really enjoy a sunset, an overlook, a mountain view and time alone in thought. There is an introspective aspect that seems to be a common thread among Foresters. Many Foresters enjoy writing.

Well, what do you think? I am positive I didn't cover everything, and I'm pretty sure you are surprised at the span of opportunities for

foresters. If I have to focus on just one commonality among the career paths discussed here, I'd have to go back to the importance of communication and being able to communicate well with many different people. While some students may choose forestry to "work in the woods and avoid people" it would be a very rare case for a professional forester to not have to communicate well on a very regular basis with loggers, landowners, other professional service providers, utility workers, city officials, wildlife biologists, corporate managers, other foresters and even the general public.

We may all like to be alone in the woods as often as possible, but we are continuously challenged to gain a level of comfort interacting with individuals and groups. In reality, this interaction is much needed. While the forestry community may understand what we do, how we do it and the importance of our work, the bulk of the citizens do not. Our efforts are typically behind the scenes – or more appropriately termed – in the woods, and the majority of life's activities for most folks take place away from our hard work. It is important however for everyday citizens to hear about the values of a healthy forest and to buy into sustainable forest management. After all, the health of our forest can have an effect on every single person. Our citizens should feel compelled to understand and we should feel compelled to excel in communicating the message of sustainable forest management. Let's at least do our part. 

CONSULTING FORESTERS FIND MARKETS FOR HIGH QUALITY LOGS:

ASSISTING FOREST LANDOWNERS IN SELLING HIGH QUALITY LOGS

by Bob Hobbes, Jr., ACF, CF

Looking back now we realize with 20 / 20 hindsight that the late 1990s and early 2000s were a real heyday for selling hardwood sawtimber & veneer logs from forest lands across the Commonwealth, including private forest lands. As recently as 2007, the 10 year average annual sales growth for several species of hardwood sawtimber was positive, and a couple species had double digit positive returns. This made growing high quality hardwood sawtimber competitive with other investments, including stocks. Add to this the fact that investing in private forest lands also provides risk management for diversification of large portfolios, and it is no wonder that we have had a lot of interest by many types of land buyers for good quality hardwood stands on private forestlands across Pennsylvania.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND:

As one private forestry consultant that works with private forest landowners every day, I can attest that this was a period of busy and fun times. Like many of my forester peers, I cut my eye teeth in forestry work in the 1960s -- 70s -- 80s by helping private forest landowners realize the value in doing timber stand improvement (TSI) work in their pole sized forest stands. Some of this work was commercial for pulpwood markets, but a lot of it was pre-commercial, where the product of a day's work rode home in the back of your pickup for the firewood pile at home.

Whichever of the 4 W's, Wood, Wildlife, Water or Walking (and other forms of recreation), forest landowners were managing did not matter. Most folks have one or all of these as their property objectives. At the root of each of these objectives is picking out future crop trees to keep and cutting out competing trees, and this produces wood products.

Now fast forward through the 1970s and 1980s and 1990s as Pennsylvania forest stands grew from pole stands



Laying out logs for bidding: note a layer of poles are laid down so that the small (scaling) end of each log can be raised off the ground for ease in examining and scaling. The logs are loosely piled so they can be rolled around and examined for defects. This increases log handling and can best be done with forwarders or loaders or skidders, all useful in CTL operations.

to sawtimber stands. Recommended harvest practices changed from thinnings to the shelterwood harvest system (and other systems). Now forest landowners began to see real financial returns from timber sales in their woodlots. These same forest landowners were also becoming more knowledgeable about timber harvesting equipment, methods and BMPs and realizing the importance of protecting residual trees for future growth.

Cut-to-Length (CTL) harvest equipment began to make an appearance in Penn's Woods as mechanized felling equipment and forwarders came on the scene. Landowners and foresters and loggers began to realize that harvested forest product values could be maximized while at the same time residual stands could be protected.

Maximizing individual sawlog / veneer log values has always meant producing a log to the buyer's specifications

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Selling cut logs requires different marketing techniques than selling standing timber...signage for separate lots of logs...

that was clean and available to be examined for quality and defects. Harvesting high quality trees so that each individual log can be examined for color and quality reduces the buying risk for the log buyer, which increases the revenue for the log seller. Now with CTL equipment this could be done in the woods, or in nearby farm fields where logs could be made available for scaling and examination before they were hauled away to the buying sawmill or veneer mill. This may not have been revolutionary change, but it certainly was significant change for the timber buying and selling process. Now sawmills and veneer mills needed foresters and / or log buyers to go to the woods to buy cut logs not just standing timber. Logs could now be examined and scaled in the woods where they were neatly presented for bidding and for sale. The sawlog / veneer market went from being a buyer's market to a seller's market, and this continued until the financial and housing market crash.

As a consulting forester I worked with forest landowner clients as we learned together how to hire CTL equipment contractors and competitively bid out sawlogs and veneer logs instead of standing timber, and still get all the necessary stand treatments completed. This involved changing our timber sale contracts and building a more complete understanding of the timber and forest products marketing systems around us.

THE WHOLE WORLD WANTED PENNSYLVANIA HARDWOODS:

It seemed like all of a sudden the whole world was chasing after Pennsylvania forest products. Timber buyers I never heard of before were now contacting me about log availability. I was getting calls from foreign countries asking if I had a translator available for a market discussion. Local sawmills began to pay forest landowners for veneer log values for logs they re-sold to veneer mills

CONSULTING FORESTERS FIND MARKETS FOR HIGH QUALITY LOGS

or export log markets. Landowners and sawmills alike began to sell and re-sell logs to export markets. Numerous sawmills changed ownership as forest conglomerates now wanted sawmills and veneer mills; they could now buy logs woods run and sort them out for the sawmill or the veneer mill.

Traditional veneer markets across the state included black cherry, red and white oak and white ash, plus occasionally another species or two, such as black walnut where they were available. Now the species list was expanded to include: black cherry, red & white oak, white ash, sugar maple, hickory and birch. And for a brief year or two before the housing market crashed, red maple (which many of us had cut for years in TSI operations as a weed tree) actually sold as a veneer species. I'll never forget the day we sold red maple logs for \$1.00 / BF (Board Foot). Who'd a thunk it!


This new world rewarded everyone in the forest products business with increased financial returns and we learned together how to re-negotiate the financial equations in contracts and maximize the return for private forest landowners – the timber growers. In most cases the timber harvests during the late 1990s and early 2000s were the result of years and even decades of management work; lots of sweat equity, now with a good financial return.

NOW WE LOOK BACK WITH 20 / 20 HINDSIGHT:

Now we look back on the go-go days of the hardwood markets and realize we live and work in much different forest products markets today. Here in the



...Selling hardwood logs is a late fall, winter or early spring time operation when the trees are dormant...also snow season...requires regular clearing of snow for log scaling...

Endless Mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania we always knew that our black cherry was not the same quality as the cherry grown out on the Allegheny Plateau, but we look back a few years and remember the times when we still could sell black cherry for \$8,000 per MBF (thousand board feet) or \$8.00 / BF. At the same time we sold our red oak for \$1.80 / BF and sugar maple for \$6.00 / BF and white ash for \$4.00 / BF and birch & hickory for anywhere between \$.75 and \$2.00 / BF. I guess now we will always look back at those times as the good times. For comparison, the small volume of black cherry and sugar maple veneer logs that I sold during the winter 2011 / 2012 topped out at \$3.00 / BF. Meanwhile we know hardwood log and lumber markets have always been cyclical. In between highs in the market cycles, the trees are still growing. As consulting foresters our job continues to be working with our private forest landowner clients to make smart choices about which trees grow on the acres to best meet their family's long term objectives. 

NOW WE LOOK BACK ON THE GO-GO DAYS OF THE HARDWOOD MARKETS AND REALIZE WE LIVE AND WORK IN MUCH DIFFERENT FOREST PRODUCTS MARKETS TODAY. HERE IN THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, WE ALWAYS KNEW THAT OUR BLACK CHERRY WAS NOT THE SAME QUALITY AS THE CHERRY GROWN OUT ON THE ALLEGHENY PLATEAU, BUT WE LOOK BACK A FEW YEARS AND REMEMBER THE TIMES WHEN WE STILL COULD SELL BLACK CHERRY FOR \$8,000 PER MBF (THOUSAND BOARD FEET) OR \$8.00 / BF.

CREDENTIALING CONSULTANT FORESTERS:

WHY LICENSE FORESTERS IN PENNSYLVANIA?

by David J. O'Barto, CF, President, PA Council of Professional Foresters

My immediate response is, "Why not?" I've never received a satisfactory answer from anyone that would persuade me to believe otherwise. In an era of government intervention and bureaucracy, one might say that licensing foresters would further burden the profession, increase workloads and interfere with our ability to manage the forest. Would it? I believe we have already lost some of our ability to practice forestry. Have you ever encountered prohibitive timber harvesting

ordinances? Ever deal with those local ordinances that require tree tops to be chipped, stumps removed, trees to be GPS identified and mapped prior to removal, or roads that could not be bonded? Perhaps you have encountered slope restrictions and have had a township official measure the slope with a four-foot carpenter's level (true story!) and want to cite your operation for harvesting restricted trees. I have, and I assure you no professional forester, or anyone associated with the timber

industry, had a seat at the table when these regulations were being developed and adopted. Most of the responsibility for these poor decisions falls on the township officials, solicitors and landowners for not seeking guidance from professional foresters. If Pennsylvania had forester licensing it could help prevent unqualified people from adopting and then enforcing prohibitive and technically illegal regulations that adversely affect the practice of forestry.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE WOLF



CREDENTIALING CONSULTANT FORESTERS

I've heard from foresters who oppose the idea of forester licensing because they do not want more government intervention as they conduct their business. I don't either. However, after speaking with other licensed professionals like geologists, surveyors, cosmetologists, etc., not one has ever mentioned that their respective oversight boards have interfered with their businesses. Are there still incompetent licensed professionals providing shoddy work or giving bad haircuts? Sure, but as a whole these licensed professionals are being held to a higher standard because society has deemed that their actions have critical impacts to our daily lives and safety. Do you think the practice of forestry and our manipulation of the forest ecosystem critically impacts our daily lives and well-being?

I've also spoken to people who have been in the forest products industry for many years and worry they will lose their livelihood. Licensing foresters will not require landowners to use a licensed forester nor will it prevent a non-licensed individual from marking or buying timber. Forester licensing will make people stop, think and learn about the process, help take the uncertainty out of harvesting and instill confidence and trust. The landowner will know that their forest is being managed and harvested in a sustainable way that meets their goals.

For me, and like many of you, it's about the integrity of our forests. Our industry doesn't have to look hard to see that our forests are not regenerating adequately, the forest




PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE WOLF

FOR ME, AND LIKE MANY OF YOU, IT'S ABOUT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR FORESTS. OUR INDUSTRY DOESN'T HAVE TO LOOK HARD TO SEE THAT OUR FORESTS ARE NOT REGENERATING ADEQUATELY, THE FOREST UNDERSTORY IS BEING INUNDATED WITH INVASIVE PLANTS, AND WE ARE HARVESTING LESSER QUALITY TREES AND CREATING MONOCULTURES.

understory is being inundated with invasive plants, and we are harvesting lesser quality trees and creating monocultures. As a professional forester, the decisions, prescriptions, advice and recommendations we provide do not simply affect the timber stand we are working in today, we also impact water, aesthetics, wildlife, family values, recreation, etc. for many years to come. In this regard, I absolutely believe licensing of foresters is critical and very much needed. I can't think of many professions that have such an impact and effect on so many of the values that society holds in such high regard. Will having a piece of paper that says "licensed forester" change all the bad to good? Absolutely not, but as a forester you have the education, skills

and fortitude to make a difference in the long term. Society needs to recognize that the rehabilitation of our forests has to start with someone, and that someone should be a licensed professional forester. By licensing foresters, we gain credibility in society and provide more credibility to our industry. In time, we can implement our knowledge to make positive changes that will make our forests healthier, more sustainable and more productive for future users.

Note: The Pennsylvania Forestry Association has a neutral stand on this controversial issue. The opinions set forth in the article are those of the author and the PA Council of Professional Foresters. 

A FORESTER IS A CRITTER'S BEST FRIEND

by Mark Banker, Wildlife Biologist, Appalachian Forest Consultants – Wildlife Services

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE WOLF



Since forests and shrublands dominate the more rural parts of Pennsylvania, most terrestrial wildlife is associated with trees and shrubs in one way or another. In order to maintain healthy populations of the entire array of forest wildlife species, we need to make sure we have diverse forests, both young and old, pine and hardwood. Working together, foresters and wildlife biologists can develop forest management prescriptions that will provide habitat for many kinds of wildlife for a long time. While wildlife biologists tend to track habitat and population trends to prioritize habitat management and make recommendations, foresters are experts at manipulating the forest to achieve a desired

mix of age classes and forest structure components that are known to be important for wildlife and forest health.


The importance of active forest management in Pennsylvania, versus passive management, or doing nothing, is well illustrated by looking at changes in forest age structure and wildlife populations over time. In 1955, about 22% of Pennsylvania's forests were less than 20 years-old. This was a pretty fair balance of young forest habitat versus older forests, perfect for the ruffed grouse, American woodcock, golden-winged warbler, eastern towhee, white-tailed deer

A FORESTER IS A CRITTER'S BEST FRIEND and others. By 1989, this number had dwindled to 15% seedling/sapling as man-made forest disturbance slowed, and now that number hovers somewhere around 10%. Mature forests dominate, which has led to some interesting and troubling trends in wildlife populations.

Songbirds, for example, can tell us quite a bit. Songbirds are well distributed across the landscape, there are many different species, and multiple species occupy practically every identifiable terrestrial habitat. Changes in their numbers are often a good indication of the status of a given habitat type. From 1966 to the present (the lifespan of the **North American Breeding Bird Survey**), dozens of songbirds that nest in scrub-shrub habitat (young forests 0-20 years-old) in PA showed statistically significant declines while a handful increased, according to the **North American Breeding Bird Survey**. This is a trend that bothers us wildlife biologists a great deal. During the same time span, far more mature forest songbirds increased while a handful declined. Since 1980, the decline in young forest songbirds has slowed as the availability of habitat has been relatively more stable in recent years.

Since 1968, American woodcock populations have declined at an alarming rate in Pennsylvania. For the past 10+ years, woodcock populations have been stable, which is an excellent sign. Pennsylvania does not do any ruffed grouse drumming counts, but grouse hunter flush surveys suggest a fluctuating population that has trended downward for some time. Still, where there is extensive habitat, grouse numbers can be impressive.

On the mammal side, the bobcat and snowshoe hare (hanging on by a claw in northern PA) rely on dense young forests for prey and cover, and species like the black bear, little brown bat, deer and turkey utilize a diversity of forest stages, from very young to mature, for food and cover depending on the time of year. Early successional forest is great habitat for deer. It stands to reason that the overall maturation of PA forests leading to a dramatic decline in deer habitat quality has contributed to the degradation of our mature forest understories and our inability to regenerate new, young forests that are good deer habitat. Fortunately, this is a problem that is being addressed so that habitat quality can be improved via timber harvest.

It seems clear that active forestry is the key to maintaining a balance of habitat types and slowing or reversing the decline of some species and insuring the continued abundance of others. A variety of management techniques that improve the structure of mature forests and create new, young forests will have to be used in unison. We must also recognize that there is value in leaving an appropriate amount of forest unmanaged as a frame of reference. Public forest managers have a responsibility to provide diverse habitat for wildlife and for the enjoyment of all citizens and to set an example for private forest owners, who own most of the land and who play an important role in wildlife management. There is much work to be done in PA, as in many eastern states, to secure the future of forest wildlife. Fortunately, there are plenty of talented foresters and biologists who are working together to make it happen. 

FROM 1966 TO THE PRESENT (THE LIFESPAN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BREEDING BIRD SURVEY), DOZENS OF SONGBIRDS THAT NEST IN SCRUB-SHRUB HABITAT (YOUNG FORESTS 0-20 YEARS-OLD) IN PA SHOWED STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DECLINES WHILE A HANDFUL INCREASED, ACCORDING TO THE NORTH AMERICAN BREEDING BIRD SURVEY. THIS IS A TREND THAT BOTHERS US WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS A GREAT DEAL. DURING THE SAME TIME SPAN, FAR MORE MATURE FOREST SONGBIRDS INCREASED WHILE A HANDFUL DECLINED. SINCE 1980, THE DECLINE IN YOUNG FOREST SONGBIRDS HAS SLOWED AS THE AVAILABILITY OF HABITAT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY MORE STABLE IN RECENT YEARS.

CONSULTANT FORESTERS ASSIST IN ESTATE PLANNING

by Stephen E. Jaquith, CF, ACF

People who plan ahead wisely for their own passing can benefit family members and other heirs in many ways; this is true even for those with modest assets. Conversely, people who make incorrect assumptions and fail to fully and knowledgeably consider what may happen after they're gone might be creating burdens they most certainly did not intend. Estate planning is not only for the wealthy, and it goes far beyond such mundane matters as reducing taxes.

Woodlands and families alike undergo changes over time. Good estate planning recognizes that unexpected changes, both gradual and sudden, may require later modifications. One example is the roller-coaster changes in federal estate taxation in recent years. Even Pennsylvania's sliding-scale inheritance tax has changed recently. A will needs built-in flexibility designed by a knowledgeable attorney, who can do a better job if provided

with detailed information and the fruits of clear, practical thinking.

WHAT IS IT WORTH?

The value of a woodland and other assets goes beyond finances, but a comprehensive appraisal is important. A real estate appraiser and a consulting forester can provide the fair market value of the property and its timber. There may be other economic values to consider, such as natural gas rights. (All values will

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE WOLF



CONSULTANT FORESTERS ASSIST IN ESTATE PLANNING

need to be updated to the date of death.)

Once the appraised value of the property as a whole is determined, its other values to various family members and others can be clarified. How is it used? Is it primarily a family gathering spot? A retreat? Who values it, and in what ways?

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The costs of ownership should be determined, as should any regular income from hunting leases, natural gas leases, wind turbines, etc. This information may help in considering future owners. Sometimes there is a mismatch between a potential heir's interest in the woodland and the financial ability to maintain it.

WHO CAN MANAGE IT?

A person living far away might have difficulty and excessive expenses in looking after a woodland property. Who lives close to the property? Are they interested and experienced in managing it? Wishful thinking needs to be discarded.

How much time, attention, and expertise will be needed? Even an organization that would appear to be a good fit may not have the resources to manage the property well.

WHO WILL OWN IT?

Thinking beyond the (tax-free) transfer to one's spouse, individual ownership is just one of many options. Leaving a property to more than one person may work best if one of them receives a 51% interest; unhappiness can develop when relatives own real estate jointly and equally. Discussions with

family members and experienced advisors can help. For some families, transferring the woodland to a family limited partnership or a family trust may meet their goals best. A trust can be funded through the will.

PLACING A PERMANENT CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE PROPERTY CAN PROTECT IT FROM SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT WHILE REDUCING THE ESTATE TAX. PERHAPS DONATING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT WOULD PROVIDE ENOUGH INCOME TAX SAVINGS TO FUND A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY THAT WILL PAY FEDERAL ESTATE TAXES AND STATE INHERITANCE TAXES.

GIFT OR BEQUEST?

Once the future owner is selected, it's time to determine the best way to transfer the woodland. Giving it away before death may seem attractive, but there can be complications. The donor must give up all rights to the property or the Internal Revenue Service might require that it be included in the estate for taxation purposes. A gift recipient also receives the donor's tax basis, which is often a detriment; an heir, on the other hand, receives a tax basis that is "stepped up" to the current value, which can be very helpful in reducing future income taxes on timber sale revenue. It may make sense to use a generation-skipping transfer to grandchildren. A life insurance policy to cover estate and inheritance taxes for heirs is sometimes the best way to avoid the forced sale of land to pay estate and inheritance taxes.

DOES A CONSERVATION EASEMENT MAKE SENSE?

Placing a permanent conservation easement on the property can protect it from subdivision and development while reducing the estate tax. Perhaps

donating a conservation easement would provide enough income tax savings to fund a life insurance policy that will pay federal estate taxes and state inheritance taxes. Many variables determine how suitable

this is for a particular family, so the benefits and drawbacks need to be thoroughly explored and carefully considered.

SOME INITIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Of these books, the essential one is **If Something Should Happen**, available as a free download or a \$10 book from www.aier.org/bookstore.

Estate Planning for Forest

Landowners: What will become of your timberland? USDA General Technical Report SRS-112. Williams C. Siegel, Harry L. Haney and John L. Greene.

If Something Should Happen: How to organize your financial and legal affairs. Marla Brill. American Institute for Economic Research.

Preserving Family Lands: Book I. Stephen J. Small. Landowner Planning Center.

Ties to the Land: Your family forest heritage – The Workbook. Oregon State University. Available at www.oregonstate.edu/ustores.

The National Timber Tax Website is online at www.timbertax.org. 

SOLUTIONS for YOU

digital printing
offset printing
graphic design
marketing
mailing & fulfillment
promotional items
green printing



The mark of
responsible forestry



Art Communication Systems, Inc.

ART COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, INC.
800.336.2522 (OR) 717.232.0144

acsprint@artcomsys.com

www.artcomsys.com

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO MEASURE IMPACTS OF FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

by Paul Lyskava, Executive Director Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, Hershey, PA plyskava@hlma.org

Two efforts are expected to take place in early 2013 to update the size and impact of the Pennsylvania's forest products industry.

Over the past five years, the industry has been severely impacted by the housing bust, financial crisis, and economic struggles in Europe. While Pennsylvania has seen the closing of numerous forest product facilities and loss of thousands of forest product jobs during this time, things are not as bad as they were a few years ago and a slow recovery is underway.

Unfortunately, there is limited data on the current size and production capacity of the State Forest products industry, due in part to fewer state research funding and the general volatility of the economy. These upcoming efforts will alleviate this deficiency.


In early 2013, the DCNR Bureau of Forestry will conduct a Timber Product Output (TPO) Survey of Pennsylvania sawmills to gather information on subjects such as harvest levels, mill production levels and capacity, species demand, use of the harvested material and residuals. Timber products output surveys are conducted regularly in many states, including New York, but it has been about two decades since this data has been regularly gathered in Pennsylvania. The current goal of DCNR is to renew this survey and update the results every two years.

Later in the spring of 2013, PFPA and the Hardwoods Development Council will be working with a team of



researchers to update economic impact data last developed in 2007.

These two studies will provide an updated picture of the scope and condition of state's forest products industry since the 'Great Recession', helping policy-makers, landowners, forest product companies, foresters, and others to make better decisions in the areas of wood procurement, forest resources management, economic research, and forest industry development. For example, the data can be used to identify opportunities to develop additional demand for timber or woody biomass that can be sustainably met by the forest resource.

The Pennsylvania Forest Products Association encourages forest product companies to participate in this survey. 

SPONSORS WANTED FOR CHARITY SHOOT

Shooting station sponsors are needed for the 2013 "Log a Load" for Kids Charity Continental Shoot, which will be held Saturday, March 16 at the Warriors Mark Wingshooting Lodge, Clearfield County, PA. The event is co-hosted by the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association and the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

Log a Load for Kids is a national charity fundraising effort of the forest product industry, with all net proceeds going to the **Children's Miracle Network**. Last year, over \$5,900 was raised and distributed to CMN-affiliated hospitals in Pennsylvania.

Sponsorships of shooting stations are available for \$100 and additional donations are also accepted and encouraged (100% tax deductible). We also welcome any donations of door prizes for the shooters. Sponsors are recognized with signage at the event and in subsequent publications. Checks can be made out to the **Pennsylvania Forest Products Association** (note "Log a Load" event). Call PFPA with any questions (717) 901-0420.





THE WINTER GARDEN

Planning, planting and peacefulness with a little of PA

When we typically think of winter, perhaps images of cold, bundled –up folks, slow traffic, slippery driveways and school cancellations come to mind. But then, we also see beautifully snow-lined trees and pathways, jingling bells, the awareness of nature at its coldest.....

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania is no stranger to inconsistent and unpredictable winter weather. Now warm temperatures and chilly rain seem to be more the norm than the exception. In Northeast US zones 5-6-7-8, there are arrays of plants, shrubs and trees that can make wintertime beautiful, even in the rawest conditions. The trick is planning and planting at the right time to enjoy a time of outdoor peacefulness.

In many cases flowering shrubs, conifers, evergreen trees and deciduous trees look especially good in the winter. It might be their bark, shape or color. A winter garden should invite you into it – even in the snowiest of days.

Evergreen structure is potentially the most important aspect of the winter garden. When annuals and perennials die down – do they look unattractive? Why not add evergreen shrubs to provide structure for the winter season? There is a huge variety of miniature and small conifers. And there is no harm in talking with a fellow gardener or professional horticulturist to provide ideas. Place shrubs in every bed, methodically, and enjoy them year round – let winter do its peaceful magic.

Arbors of vines increase height and are delightful to walk under. Don't remove those dry vines in the winter! The snow completely changes their summertime look and reflects again, the beauty of a cold season.

Beautiful smaller trees can provide an interesting and peaceful shade as a winter place for contemplation and thankfulness. (Maybe leave a place for Frosty the Snowman,



he'd love the winter garden!) Try May-Apple, Mountain Laurel, Flowering Dogwood, Maple-leaved Viburnum, and High and Low Blueberry Bushes to name a few.

Larger trees are certainly a staple of the winter garden. Beauties like Yellow or White Birch, Red Sycamore or Chestnut Oak are great choices. When icicles form – like glass raindrops, the amazing ability of the cold (and Mr. Freeze) is truly unique.

Believe me, as a horticulturist, I have a hard time finding the beauty in a dreary, raining winter's day in PA. Looking out the window and seeing grey trees and dampened shrubs isn't exactly a thrill. But when that snow comes, I am the first to go outside to enjoy the spectacular winter showcase, provided by a *well planned and planted* winter garden. And during the bustling holiday season sometimes a moment of *peacefulness* is a true rarity. But I find it, outdoors, and every winter. 🌱



Pennsylvania Partners for Sustainable Forests

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD)

The PACD works to enhance locally led efforts that support the wise use of the state's natural resources and serves as the collective voice for Pennsylvania's 66 county conservation districts. Conservation districts provide assistance for a range of issues unique to their county such as abandoned mines, environmental education, erosion and sedimentation pollution control, forest management, and water quality protection.

Phone: 717-238-7223

pacd.org

Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry

Organized within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry offers a range of information and technical assistance to woodland owners. Service foresters meet with private forest landowners, examine their forestland, make management recommendations, and review forest stewardship plans prepared by other professionals. The bureau also provides technical assistance on activities that qualify for federal Farm Bill programs.

Phone: 717-787-2106

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/privatelands.aspx

Pennsylvania Forestry Association

The nation's oldest grassroots state organization devoted to forest conservation promotes the proper management of Pennsylvania's forests. Membership is open to all interested in the stewardship of Pennsylvania's forest resources. The primary role of the association is providing education through their quarterly magazine, newsletter articles, special nature trips, and other for-sale publications.

Phone: 717-766-5371

pfa.cas.psu.edu

Pennsylvania Forest Stewards

This program, organized by Penn State Natural Resources Extension, trains volunteers in the principles of forest stewardship so they can share what they learn with other forest landowners. Pennsylvania Forest Stewards initially receive

40 hours of classroom and field training. In exchange, Pa. Forest Stewards agree to invest a like amount of their time relaying what they learned to motivate forest landowners in their communities. Stewards are selected through a nomination process.

Phone: 800-235-9473

extension.psu.edu/paforeststewards

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Wildlife diversity biologists are available to provide free technical advice to landowners about how they can manage their property for wildlife through the Private Landowner Assistance Program (PLAP). This program focuses on providing critical habitat for species of greatest conservation need and overall wildlife diversity. After an initial telephone contact, the biologist will determine if there is reasonable habitat potential for these species and may conduct a site visit to further evaluate the property. Specific habitat improvement opportunities for the property are discussed and later detailed in a management plan. Tree and shrub seedlings, publications, and nesting structures are available for purchase from the Pa. Game Commission.

Northwest Region (814) 432-3188

Southwest Region (724) 238-9523

Northcentral Region (570) 398-4744

Southcentral Region (814) 643-1831

Northeast Region (570) 675-1143

Southeast Region (610) 926-3136

E-mail: PGCPLAP@state.pa.us

www.pgc.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA)

PALTA serves as the umbrella organization for land trusts and conservancies in the state. These organizations strive to protect lands of significant conservation value by working with landowners. PALTA provides in-depth guidance and resources on conservation topics and tools, including model conservation easements.

Phone: 717-230-8560

ConserveLand.org
ConservationTools.org

Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative®

This voluntary program works to ensure that future generations have abundant, healthy, and productive forest resources. Through the program, landowners receive information to make proper forest-management decisions while loggers learn safer, more productive skills and proper environmental practices. Logger training lies at the core of the initiative in Pennsylvania.

Phone: 888-734-9366

sfiofpa.org

Pennsylvania Tree Farm Program

This is a national program operated under the guidance of the American Tree Farm System, a branch of the American Forest Foundation. Tree Farm inspectors voluntarily examine private woodlands, providing management advice and recommendations. Landowners meeting the minimum standards can have their land "certified" as a sustainably managed forest—a forest producing continuous crops of trees while providing habitat for wildlife, clean water, and recreational opportunities. Certification by the program is recognized internationally and may provide access to improved timber markets.

Phone: 201-463-2462

patreefarm.cas.psu.edu

Penn State Natural Resources Extension

Forestry and wildlife information and educational programs for forest landowners are provided through personal letters, publications, articles, radio and television programs, meetings, exhibits, tours, and short courses. Extension foresters partner with specialists from other agencies to conduct forest stewardship educational activities for landowners and natural resource professionals and educate youth about ecology and the environment.

Phone: 800-235-9473

sfr.psu.edu/extension-outreach

USDA, Farm Services Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

These agencies work together on the administration of various USDA Farm Bill incentive programs. The Farm Bill has opportunities for forest landowners interested in technical and financial assistance for applying conservation practices to their properties. NRCS administers USDA Farm Bill Incentive Programs for forest management plans and forestry and wildlife conservation practices. NRCS also provides technical assistance to landowners on a wide array of practices, including tree planting, riparian zone management, forest stand improvement, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, and soil erosion control. FSA handles eligibility requirements for USDA Farm Bill Programs and also administers conservation cost-share programs.

Farm Services Agency

Phone: 717-237-2117

fsa.usda.gov

NRCS

Phone: 717-237-2100 or
1-888-300-8379

www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

Woodland Owner Associations

More than 25 independent woodland owner associations exist across Pennsylvania. Providing educational opportunities for members and the general public about a diverse array of forest-related topics is an important objective of most associations. This goal is accomplished through the use of meetings, field demonstrations, tours, seminars, and newsletters. Most groups do not require land ownership to become a member.

Phone: 800-235-9473

extension.psu.edu/private-forests/woodland-owners-associations

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

© The Pennsylvania State University 2011

Produced by Ag Communications and Marketing
1.9M7/11mpc U.Ed. AGR 11-32 5076

BAT DECLINE MAY IMPACT FOREST OWNERS AND INDUSTRY

by Paul Lyskava, Executive Director Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, Hershey, PA plyskava@hlma.org

An ecological crisis effecting bats may have dramatic impacts on forest landowners and those involved in logging and forest products. Cave dwelling bats across the eastern United States are being impacted by white nose syndrome (WNS), an affliction associated with the fungus *Geomyces destructans*.

WNS was first discovered in New York in 2006 and was found in Pennsylvania in 2008. The fungus is native to Europe and was likely inadvertently introduced in the U.S. by infested caving equipment. The fungus and WNS has quickly spread since then, introduced to new caves by either recreational cavers or the bats themselves. Infected hibernacula show declines and mortality of bat populations of 90% or more. The affliction disturbs the bats during hibernation, causing them to become active in winter, where they die of elements or starvation.

WNS and the fungus was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2008 and has now been found in major bat hibernacula in as many as 30 counties in the state. Surveys have shown at least three bat species in Pennsylvania suffering significant mortality and decline from white nose syndrome (WNS) – the Tri-Colored Bat; the Northern Long-Eared Bat; and the Little Brown Bat. The Little Brown is the most commonly found bat in Pennsylvania.

Biologists and conservation groups have called for greater protect of these bats species. In response, the Pennsylvania Game Commission published notice in August, seeking input listing these species as endangered in the state and impose various regulations. While WNS is the obvious cause of the bat decline, the Game Commission notice specifically included notice of restrictions on timber harvesting and other tree removals, as part of the proposed bat protection efforts.

Although details were not included in the notice, under consideration were the federal restrictions for the endangered Indiana Bat, which included the ban on any tree removals from April to mid-November, canopy retention requirements (60%) on all harvests, mandatory retention of all snags (except where they pose safety risk); and prohibition of the harvesting of certain tree species, such as hickories, maples, ashes, and oaks. Other restrictions were also under consideration, including a prohibition of all timber harvesting in 100 ft. or more riparian buffers.

The restrictions would likely be in effect for all public lands, and many private lands within the known range of these bat species. Because of the historical prevalence of the Little Brown Bat, this affected acreage in Pennsylvania would be substantial. The restrictions would be in effect for forestry, development and other land clearing activities that require any environmental permit – such as a stream crossing permit for timber harvesting.

Because of the limited notice and details in the proposal and its potential consequences to forest owners and forest product companies, PFPA raised vocal opposition to the notice. They were




joined by other impacted industries and legislators. As a result of vocal negative feedback from impacted stakeholders and legislators, the Pennsylvania Game Commission announced in October that it would not immediately proceed with draft regulatory changes and listing of the three species of bats on the commonwealth's endangered species list.

In a written release, PGC Executive Carl Roe stated, "At the present time, it is clear that more discussion, research and coordination need to be done on WNS and the other outside factors that are impacting our bat populations, as well as how we can craft solutions that protect bats without threatening the industries that employ thousands of Pennsylvanians."

The commission now indicates that it will bring industry stakeholders to the table in the spring in an effort to find a reasonable regulatory strategy to protect bats without threatening Pennsylvania jobs in timber, coal and gas.

This issue is not over. While a state endangered species listing requires some assurance of species and habitat protection, the plight of these bats is predominantly impacted by WNS. While not providing any meaningful help in defending the bats against WNS, widespread adoption of the most extremely of the proposed the timber harvesting could cripple the state's forest products industry. If adopted, the state's public and private forest owners will lose millions annually in timber sales revenue and face a severe obstacle to undertake the activities necessary to maintain healthy forests and improve habitat for deer and other game species.

Still, it is important to save these bats, if that is still possible. Collectively, bats consume tons of insects nightly, and their permanent loss would have massive negative impacts on the state's agricultural industry and require the need to utilize more pesticides.

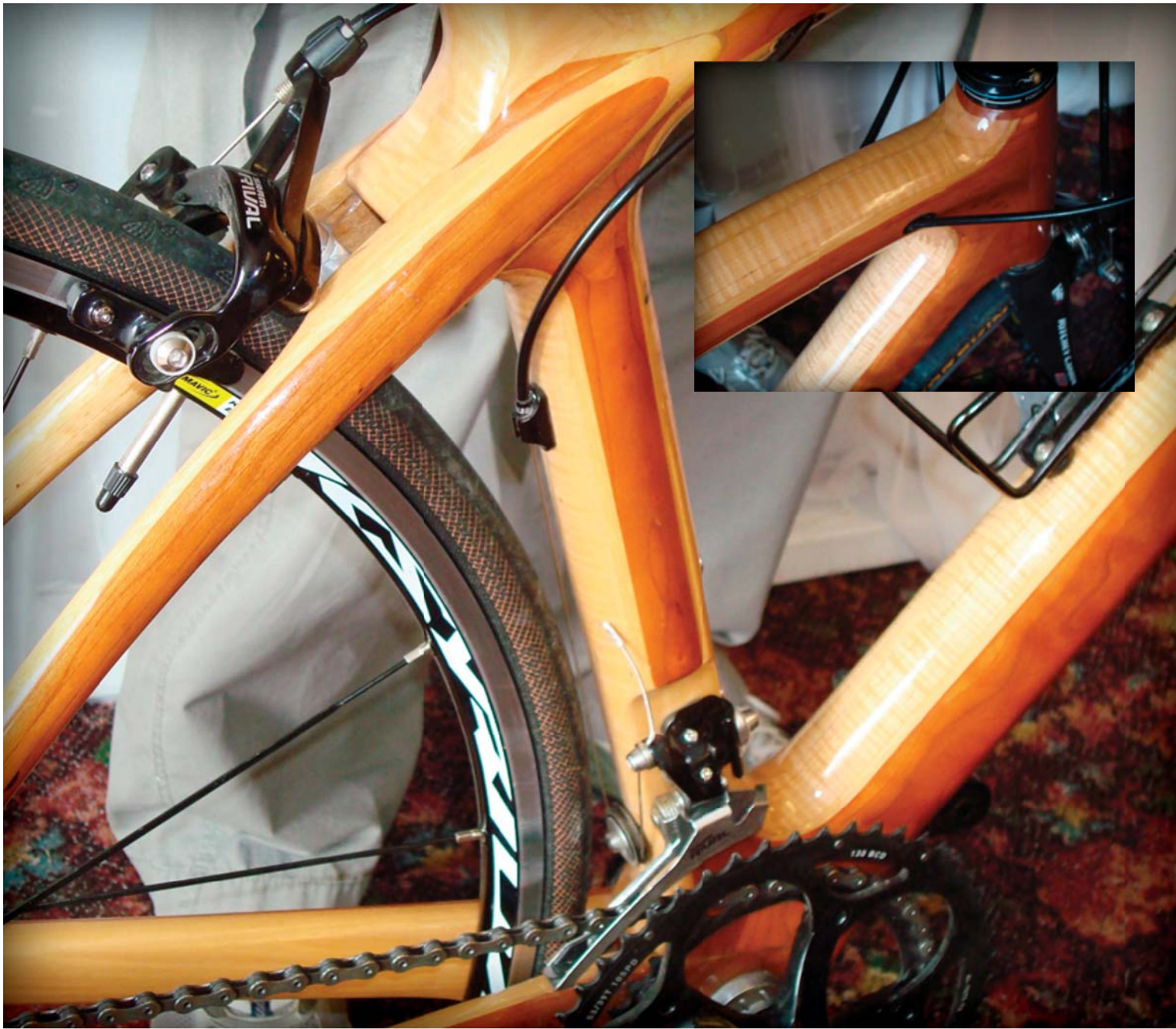
What is needed is for the commission, other agencies and stakeholders to focus on a meaningful and science-based strategy to address the cause, containment and mitigation of impacts of WNS, which is the real threat to Pennsylvania's hibernating bat populations. 

by Richard Lewis

TOUR DE WOOD

MADE IN PORTLAND, ORE
PATENT PENDING





PFA BOARD MEMBER, PAST PRESIDENT AND WEEKEND CYCLIST MARC LEWIS SHOWED UP AT THE PFA ANNUAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER WITH A VERY UNUSUAL BICYCLE.

Through research Marc had discovered a bike company in Oregon (Renovo Bicycles www.renovobikes.com) that manufactures bicycles with frames made out of US hardwoods and tropical hardwoods.

Marc contacted Renovo to see if the company would make a bike frame out of Pennsylvania hardwood for him.

After the company agreed to give native grown Pennsylvania hardwood a trial Marc, shipped curly Maple, Sycamore, Hickory, and Black Cherry lumber from the Lewis Family sawmill in Hills Grove, PA to Renovo Cycles.

After research and testing, the company ruled out the Sycamore because it did not have the fancy “figure” pattern that both Marc and the company wanted to achieve. The company used the Hickory for the rear bicycle frame stays because of its superior strength qualities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

TOUR DE WOOD


Also used in the bike frame were laminations of curly Maple and Black Cherry.

According to Ken Wheeler, founder of Renovo Bicycles, “Our wooden bikes are manufactured not as much to create a green product (although we are proud of this environmental label too!) but rather because wood is a natural shock absorber and wood frame bicycles have superior vibration dampening qualities over carbon, steel and titanium frame bikes.”

Renovo bikes with their light weight hollow hardwood frames have proven to be very quiet riding, durable and extremely damage resistant with the easiest, least

expensive frames to repair when compared to synthetic frame bike repair.

After Marc Lewis’s order for the first Pennsylvania hardwood bike, Renovo came out with an additional full line of Appalachian Series bike frames made from Appalachian Hardwoods. See <http://www.renovobikes.com/appalachian-series>

Marc Lewis notes, “*The combination of art and engineering that went into making this bike has created a beautiful bicycle that not only typifies the beauty of our Pennsylvania hardwoods but is also a pleasure to ride. The ride is smooth yet stiff enough to handle the rigors of climbing the hills of Pennsylvania.*” 





2013 PRIVATE FOREST LANDOWNER CONFERENCE

The Future of Penn's Woods

The 2013 Private Forest Landowner Conference takes place on May 10-11, at the Blair County Convention Center, Altoona. Join us for a conference dedicated to all who love and live in Pennsylvania's private forests! Registration for the Conference will open mid-January. Visit <http://ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forest-conference> to register and learn more about the program.

The Private Forest Landowner Conference is the first-ever comprehensive conference for private landowners in Pennsylvania. Whether you own five or 500 acres, you are one of nearly 740,000 Pennsylvania woodland owners who make decisions about the health and well-being of nearly 12 million acres of private forests.

The Conference will focus on the conservation and management of healthy forests with the intent of bringing together people who want to demonstrate a commitment to forest sustainability.

Conference presentation tracks, offered by regionally- and nationally-recognized experts, include: conservation

options, invasive species, taxes, tending your woods, water quality, wildlife, woods in your backyard, and on and on. Exhibitors with informational and resource displays and demonstrations will be on hand to show case tools and services.

On Friday morning, May 10, we will offer optional tours on a variety of topics such as wind energy and forests, invasive species control, vernal ponds, and early successional wildlife habitat. These tours will take place before the conference officially starts at 1p.m. with general and concurrent sessions. Friday night is an optional banquet with keynote addresses. Saturday, the program will run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. with more general and concurrent sessions.

Sponsors Include:

Penn State Center for Private Forest, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee and many others.

PRIVATE FOREST LANDOWNER CONFERENCE

The Future of Penn's Woods

May 10-11, 2013

**Blair County Convention Center
Altoona, Pennsylvania**

ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forest-conference

